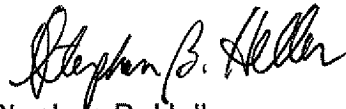


### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-39 are pending in the application. Pursuant to the Office Action, restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372. In this regard, the Examiner has identified three different groups of claims, namely, Group I, claims 1-16 and 18-34 drawn to a method of chemical reduction of metallic oxides to form pellets of metallic oxide, in particular, carbon, Group II, claim 17, drawn to a product of directly reduced granular iron pellet, and Group III claims 35-39, drawn to an apparatus of an electrothermal fluidized bed furnace.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant elects the Group I claims, namely, claims 1-16 and 18-34, without traverse, for prosecution in the present application. Claims 17 and 35-39 are withdrawn from further consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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